

THE OKLAHOMA MINER

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NOT TO SUSPEND.

A dispatch from Kansas City says that a small sub-committee has been appointed to try to arrange a contract between the miners and operators of the southwest and it is predicted that a settlement of some kind will have been reached by the last of this week.

The sub-committee is composed of three operators, the three district mine presidents, besides four ex-officio members. The operators are Messrs. Fleming, Jenkins and Elliott, with Messrs. Keith and Ryan as ex-officio members, and the miners representatives are Presidents Howat, Mooney and Stewart, with Vice President Hayes and National Board Member Farrington as ex-officio members.

To Be No Suspension.

The following letter, written at Kansas City, under date of April 27, is being sent out from here today by District Secretary Fred Holt to the various locals:

"To the Various Local Unions, Districts 14, 21 and 25—Greeting:

"At a meeting of the conference committee representing districts 14, 21 and 25 we had under consideration the continuation clause as it relates to continuing at work after May 1st pending the negotiations for the new agreement as provided in the third clause. It was decided unanimously by the committee representing districts 14, 21 and 25 for the mines to continue at work until official orders are issued to suspend work. You are therefore instructed to continue at work until authorized officially to suspend work.

"Signed in behalf of the conference committee:

"ALEX. HOWAT,
"President Dist. 14.
"P. R. STEWART,
"President Dist. 21.
"JAS. BLEE,
"President Dist. 25.
"FRANK J. HAYES,
"International Vice-President,
U. M. W. of A."

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MINERS AND OPERATORS REACH NEW AGREEMENT.

Fort Worth, Tex., April 30.—Agreement was reached between the coal mine operators of Texas and the representatives of the coal mine workers or union miners today, and that agreement has been taken back to the various camps to be voted upon. It is expected the action of the conference will be confirmed and, in that event, the formal signing of the agreement, binding for two years from April 1, 1912, will be made.

The agreement is on the basis of the Cleveland agreement, which provides for an increase of 5c per ton for mining and 5.26 per cent increase in the day wage and for dead work scale. The working conditions which prevailed in the expired contract are contained in the new agreement.

Dates Back to April 1.

The United Miners of America, working in Texas, belong to District 21, and a national board member has been present at all of the conferences as well as representatives of the several camps. About a month ago, at a conference held in this city, an agreement was made to continue the old contract in force to May 1, 1912. It was a part of that agreement that any increase in wages should date back to April 1, and that will, of course, be done in the event of the ratification by the miners, which is confidently anticipated.

The conference will remain in session here until Thursday, by which time the ratification of the agreement for the new contract is expected.

Says Dispatches in Error.

Ed S. Britton of Strawn said there was an error in a dispatch printed in The News Monday morning which it was stated that the work at the Lyra and Strawn mines had been suspended. Manager Britton says the mines have not been closed down a day. Work went on as usual on the dates the dispatch said the mines had suspended work and are working as usual today. There has been no suspension of work in those camps, he said.

OKLAHOMA COAL DECREASE.

Large Falling Off in 1910 As Compared With Output of Year Before.

Oklahoma's coal production in 1910 was 2,646,226 short tons, valued at \$5,867,947, a decrease of 473,161 short tons as compared with the tonnage for 1909, according to Edward W. Parker of the United States Geological Survey.

Oklahoma was one of the states most seriously affected by the prolonged strike of 1910. Naturally, in anticipation of the suspension of operations, the mines of the Mississippi Valley region were operated with unusual activity during the first three months of the year, and about 50 per cent increase over the normal tonnage was won during the time. After mining was generally resumed in September there was a strong effort made by both operators and miners to make up for lost time. Thus, although the strike lasted for five and a half months and considerable additional time was required to put the mines in working order, the actual loss in production was not in proportion to the time lost by the strike.

In Oklahoma the production decreased from 3,119,377 short tons, valued at \$5,867,847 in 1910, a difference against 1910 of 473,151 short tons, or 14.17 per cent in quantity and of \$385,420, or 6.16 per cent in value. Because of the shortage caused by the strike the average price per ton advanced from \$2 in 1909 to \$2.22 in 1910.

The suspension of mining in the Southwestern states gave exceptional opportunity for coals from Colorado, New Mexico and Alabama to make new and heavy inroads upon the markets naturally tributary to Oklahoma and the adjoining states of Arkansas and Kansas. It also gave substantial encouragement to the development of lignite in Texas, and to the expansion of its use, but probably the most serious effect, because more lasting, was the migration of the miners to other states where mining was not interrupted. Consequently when mining was resumed and demand was unprecedentedly heavy the labor supply was entirely inadequate.

In addition to other disorganizing influences, the coal industry of the Southwest has suffered from the continued competition of cheap fuel oil and of natural gas.

The number of men reported as employed in the coal mines of Oklahoma in 1910 was 8657, who worked an average of 144 days. The number of men on strike was 8213 and the average time lost by each man was 152 days so that the idleness was equivalent to 99 per cent of the time worked. The quantity of coal produced for each man employed in 1910 was 306 short tons for the year and 2.13 tons for each day.

The coal-bearing rocks of Oklahoma from a part of what is known as the Western Interior coal field. They extend from what was Indian Territory, into Kansas on the north and into Arkansas on the east. Within the state this field has an approximate area of 20,000 square miles, underlying the western half of the area formerly known as the Cherokee nation, the whole of what was the Creek Nation, and a small portion of the former Chickasaw Nation. The total area underlain by workable coal is estimated to be about 10,000 square miles. The coals, of which there are ten or more beds, vary from a medium low on the one hand to high-grade bituminous, approaching semi-anthracite on the other. Some of the high-grade bituminous varieties possess coking qualities. Several hundred coke ovens are in operation in the eastern and western parts of what was the Choctaw field. Much of

CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION



HON. JACK LOVE of the CORPORATION COMMISSION

the slack that is produced is washed and turned into coke.

WILL TEST MINE OPENING.

State Inspector Boyle Orders San Bois Company Shafts Closed. Oklahoma City, Ok., May 1.—State Mine Inspector E. L. Boyle will go to McAlester, scene of the mine disaster of March 21, and test the matter of opening San Bois Coal company mines Nos. 1 and 3, which were closed by his order following the explosion in No. 2, and reopened by the receivers Tuesday morning under an order of the federal court of the eastern district.

The receivers and mine officials declared that the assumption of jurisdiction by the federal court robbed Boyle of further authority, and served notice that they would send men into the workings. Boyle was advised that his notices ordering the mines closed had been torn down but that two men went into the mine.

"I believe that the time has come to find out how far they can go and what authority the state has in protecting the lives and safety of the men employed in the mines," said the inspector.

MCCURTAIN MINE REPORT SOON.

Oklahoma City, Okla., May 1.—State Mine Inspector Boyle expects to have his official report covering the McCurtain mine disaster ready for the public during the week. The only missing man was found in one of the mine entries a few days ago, and it is thought to be O. Priata, an Italian. This fixes the number dead at 73, whereas 25 were rescued alive. The report will call attention to the necessity of legislation tending to reduce the hazard of mining.

LOOK AT LINE-UP.

When you receive literature from the Oklahoma Tax League, just notice who are the officers and promoters. You will find C. F. Colcord, a wealthy real estate owner of Ok-

lahoma City who was round by the tax ferret to owe \$75,000 taxes that had escaped his attention, and for which a suit was brought to recover. You will find Ed. Cooke, banker who owns one of the finest residences in Oklahoma City and who is said to be worth over \$250,000, yet who was found on the tax rolls to have but a few dollars personal tax—what would be expected of one of the boys at the fork of the creek. There is John Shartell, of the Oklahoma Street Railway company who represents something over a million dollars of property for his company, and then there is Joe Huckins who is reputed to be worth some little money, but whose personal tax is what would be expected of a tenant in a fifteen-dollar-a-month house. Joe's big hotel in Oklahoma City would lead one to believe that he is possessor of some personal property.

Now you men on the farms and in town—you men who have all you possess right out in sight where all the world can see it, what do you think of these Oklahoma City men worth their thousands and hundreds of thousands, but who pay taxes on no more personal property than you—what do you think of them as men leading a fight against high taxes?

If they would pay their proportion of taxes, you would have to bear less of the burden. These men are the ones, too, who have always shouted the hardest for bonds in Oklahoma City, until now the interest on those bonds and sinking fund amount to more than it costs annually to run the state government. Yet, with all this, they are making a fight against the state administration and for "turning the rascals out" when the records show that they have been escaping taxation, thus forcing the small taxpayer to bear the burden.

Look at the line-up of the men, before you fall over yourselves following them off. They have another motive, and it isn't because they are bleeding at every pore for the taxes you have to pay.

From McAlester Weekly Tribune:

Special Subscription Offer

FIFTY PER CENT of all subscription received for the Oklahoma Miner for the next six months will be donated to the Relief Fund of Widows and Orphans, as the result of the mine disaster at McCurtain. Immediately upon receipt of money, the name of subscriber and amount of subscription will be published the following week.

IN CLUBS OF 20 OR MORE

25 Subscriptions	-	-	\$20.00
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The Oklahoma Miner
Krebs, Oklahoma